

GRAUSTARK

#18

"Winter 1901"

8 February 1964

AUSTRIAN PLIGHT: IRON RING AT THE IRON GATE?

As a consequence of the military developments in the first year of the war, the following establishments of new units were made:

ENGLAND: Fleet in Edinburgh.
FRANCE: Armies in Brest and Paris.
GERMANY: Armies in Berlin and Munich.
ITALY: Army in Venice, fleet in Naples.
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Army in Vienna.
RUSSIA: Army in Warsaw.
TURKEY: Fleet in Smyrna.

ROME: There is jubilation in the streets of Italy today, for the Royal Italian army proved what everyone doubted - that it could fight. The Italian people, to celebrate, are singing Strauss operettas off key, and they consider anyone who can whistle the whole Ring Cycle highly suspect.

His doddering majesty, Franz Joseph, is offered the kingdom of Corsica for his realm. He is urged to cease senseless bloodshed in a hopeless cause.

In order that the Italian victory may be carried out speedily, the citizens of Venice have volunteered in droves. We had to turn many away, especially those speaking in a heavy German accent and trying to enlist under the name X-9. We figures that anyone who had to sign his name with an "X" was probably illiterate, and we did not want anyone in our army whose parents were not married.

Union organizers tried to hinder construction of a new fleet, in Naples, but they are now rotting in prison, trying to learn the error of their ways. Their friends and relations are warned not to expect to see them again at least until the end of the war. Any further outbreaks of labour violence will be severely dealt with.

LONDON: English forces from Malta and Cyprus have taken Crete, as a refuge for the Greek royal family. One cruiser was sunk by an unidentified submarine; no other resistance.

BUCHAREST (INP): General Priluvici informed the Press today that Marshal Obler, the head of the 2nd Army Group (Moscow North) had been wounded by Austrian troops near Slatina, on thw western Roumanian plain.

He identified the enemy as units of the 3rd Croatian cavalry division, the ones which broke through Russian lines early on December 21. Though not pointed out, it was obvious that the Marshal ran into part of the struggle that took place around Craiova that same week. The Marshal was in his HQ train at the time and reportedly accounted for two of the enemy horsemen himself, before being struck in the neck.

Major General Debbrein has assumed command of the 2nd Army Group, though it is expected that Marshal Obler shall

return from the hospital in Kief before the spring rains.

The continuing struggles for the approaches to the Iron Gates of the Danube are apparently slow and unsure despite continued reports of slow but steady progress. One unidentified officer claimed that the Russians are suffering from a general lack of artillery and ammunition for their artillery pieces. Over 35,000 prisoners were reportedly taken in the Craiova battles, and paraded through Bucharest to provide proof to doubting Roumanian citizens. The Austrians claim 45,000 Russian prisoners but no one believes that they have more than 2/3 that, if that.

Mount Slevusku near Vatra Dorsai has fallen after a running 48-hour battle, and it is reported that the 7th White Russian division has finally been able to occupy the town of Vatra Dorsai. The Russians in this area are therefore only 35 miles from the Transylvanian plain at Bistra.

WARSAW (AP): Prince Alexei, commanding the 22nd Division, is in the city of Warsaw suffering from a slight head wound. When the Prussians forced their way into Sweden, Prince Alexei rode immediately north to Lomza to personally command the fully mobilized 22nd Division stationed there.

The Tsarist Press has been calling him a hero for weeks now, ever since his scrape at Ortelsburg. Perceiving that immediate action was called for, he moved the division in three columns into East Prussia and has created a panicky state of fear amongst the entire province.

At Ortelsburg he reportedly personally led a squadron of horse through the town square to save an entrapped company to the south of the town. The town is once more in German hands but the entire border is in a state of uncertainty and no offensive moves have been able to be made towards the weak unformed Russian forces in Poland.

Lt. General Mannerheim, a Finn, is reportedly going to take over the 3rd Army Group presently mobilizing around Warsaw.

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GRAUSTARK is the first postal Diplomacy bulletin. Subscriptions are \$1 for 10 issues from John Boardman, 592 16th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11218, USA. The number which appears in the following parentheses () is the number of the issue with which your subscription expires. If this number is equal to or less than 18, you will not receive another issue until you renew your subscription.

Diplomacy was created by Allan B. Calhamer, and a diplomacy set may be purchased for \$7.50 from Cornwall Corp., 48 Wareham St., Boston 18, Mass. Diplomacy rulebooks are \$1 each, and maps 4¢ each, from GRAUSTARK. The rules of postal Diplomacy appear in GRAUSTARK #17, of which extra copies were printed and are still available.

The question on rules of convoying, raised by Len Bailes in his letter to GRAUSTARK #17, can be referred to p. 3 of the rulebook. "An order which admits of two meanings is not followed." Hence, if there is disagreement among allies on a convoying move, the pieces involved do not move.

DEADLINE FOR "SPRING 1902" MOVES IS SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY 1964.

This is

O	At
P	Great
E	Intervals
R	This
A	Appears
T	To
I	inflame
O	Optic
N	Nerves

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